GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:118
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2002
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN NATIONAL PARKS
V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are reviewing the management system of National Parks regularly;

(b) if so, whether any deficiency has been noticed in regard to failure of management system in checking the poaching of protected animals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to overhaul the present management system and also to improve the security arrangements at the National Parks?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a),(b),(c)&(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c)&(d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO REGARDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN NATIONAL PARKS

(a) According to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, overseeing the management of National Parks is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. However, the Central Government has been reviewing the management of national parks and sanctuaries with the State Governments from time to time which has culminated in the adoption of National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016).A Wildlife Conservation Strategy 2002 has also been adopted by the Central Government.

(b)&(c) Some of the shortcomings noticed in the management of national parks and sanctuaries are as follows:

i. A large number of vacancies at the field level.
ii. Inadequate infrastructure, poor mobility, lack of appropriate arms and effective communication network.
iii. Lack of trained field personnel.
iv. Delay in flow of central assistance and inadequate fund allocation by the State Governments.

(d) The steps taken by the Central Government from time to time to improve the management and security arrangement in the national parks are indicated at Annexure.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 118 REGAF MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN NATIONAL PARKS BY SHRI V. VETRISELVAN

1. A Wildlife Conservation Strategy 2002 has been adopted by the Indian Board for Wildlife under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister during its meeting held on 21st January, 2002. The salient features of the Wildlife Conservation Strategy are as follows:

(i) Wild Life and Forests shall be declared priority sector at the national level for which funds should be earmarked.

(ii) Law enforcement agencies must ensure that those engaged in poaching, illicit trade in wild life and wild life products, destruction of their habitat, and such other illegal activities are given quick and deterrent punishment.

(iii) Diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes from critical and ecologically fragile wildlife habitat shall not be allowed.

(iv) Lands falling within 10 km. of the boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries should be notified as Eco-fragile zones under section 3
(v) of the Environment (Protection) Act and Rule 5 Sub-rule 5
(viii)&(x) of the Environment (Protection) Rules.

(v) Removal of encroachments and illegal activities from within forestlands and Protected Areas.

(vi) The settlement of rights in National Parks and Sanctuaries should not be used to exclude or reduce the areas that are crucial and integral part of the wildlife habitat.

(vii) More than 2000 vacant posts in the frontline staff of Protected Areas shall be filled immediately and provided basic infrastructure for efficient discharge of duties. Ban on recruitment of staff against vacant post should be lifted on lines with the Police Department.

2. Central Bureau of Investigation has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

3. State Government has been asked to set up State level and district level Coordination Committee for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

4. Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all State Government to lend a helping hand to the field formation to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

5. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National Park and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of States for providing effective protection to wild animals. Financial assistance is, in particular, being provided for raising 'Strike Forces' and providing arms to the protection staff for combating the organised poachers. Assistance is also provided for giving rewards to the informers for eliciting information about poachers and smugglers.